

STOKE ROW C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Policy reviewed and agreed by:	Ethos Committee
Date:	April 2024
Next review:	April 2027

Rationale:

Stoke Row Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School and the daily act of worship shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England.

Collective Worship at Stoke Row C of E (A) Primary School takes place in accordance with the provisions of the Schools Standards and Framework Act, 1998.

The content of all our acts of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of this Church of England School.

The policy has been prepared by the Headteacher with assistance from teachers and representatives of local clergy/lay reader and members of The Ethos Committee. The Diocesan Advisor for Religious Education has been involved. The policy has full approval of the governing body.

Aims:

We seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school, and its care for all who learn and work here. We aim to nurture responses of delight and the awe and wonder in worship and to develop the children's spirituality. In line with our school vision, worship is an opportunity for all individuals in our school community to reflect on their own contribution to the world around them and how they can shine their light into the lives of others. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and our aim is for believers to be able to share in it and that others will reach the 'threshold of worship'.

Our central aims of collective worship are:-

- To affirm our identity as a Church of England School.
- To provide pupils with regular opportunities to worship God through praise, stillness, reflection and prayer.
- To deliver our school vision

- To promote children's spiritual, moral and cultural development.
- To celebrate the values and worth of our school and the Christian communities associated with it, which includes sharing of gifts and talents of all our pupils.
- To help children develop respect and understanding and participation in the nature and language of Christian worship.
- To help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others.

We support the broader curriculum through the use of the highest standards of music, art and drama, and literature. We believe that collective worship is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life, to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for thanksgiving, stillness and reflection in what is so often a very busy, active day for our pupils.

Organisation:

Worship takes place each day either in the church or in the classroom (in the case of class worship). Worship lasts 15-25 minutes and is timetabled as follows:

Headteacher's Worship (based on the Christian Values' theme of the term)

Singing Worship

Wednesday

Vicar's Worship

Worship based on safety, topical or current issues in key stages (EYFS and KS1 together and KS2 so worship and content can be age appropriate)

Friday

Celebration Worship

Children lead prayers in class and whole school worship.

During the celebration of major festivals, children and parents are invited to celebrate at Stoke Row Church. These include celebrations of Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

A quiet ethos will be maintained throughout worship including coming into and leaving the worship area.

- Everyone will sit still and quietly until the act of worship begins.
- Stillness will be encouraged.
- The children will remain seated until a teacher instructs them to move at the end of worship.
- Any chairs and resources will be left in position until after the children have left so that the atmosphere of quietness and stillness will not be broken.

Content:

The worship themes for the year are planned by the Headteacher in accordance with the 'school values and the Christian Calendar. The themes for the Rector's Worship are planned by the Rector and his team following the liturgical calendar, and reflect the Values and RE themes for the term.

Withdrawal:

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Should any parent make such a request, appropriate arrangements will be made for the supervision of the child following consultation with the Headteacher. The right to withdrawal is clearly outlined in the School Prospectus.

In addition, staff have a legal right to withdraw from this activity and should notify the Headteacher, in writing, of this decision.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The school must provide a daily collective act of worship for all registered pupils. Worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

The Headteacher and the incumbent will oversee the running of the policy and monitor the use of themes to ensure continuity. The Headteacher/incumbent will ensure that adequate resources are available and that books are purchased initially to cover the themes.

The school staff will ensure that all children take part in the collective act of worship and that arrangements are made for any children who are withdrawn by parents. Staff should ensure that no child is withdrawn without parental permission.

This policy is created in line with the Christian foundation of our school and every review of this policy is taken in line with our vision and its development.